



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2023: Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO BOARD MEMBERS – DAVE NICHOLSON, BOARD CHAIR

Dave Nicholson introduced himself as the Board Chair of PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society, commonly known as Autism Nova Scotia.

Dave called the meeting to order and announced that in accordance with the Society's By-laws, he will act as meeting chairperson and a pre-identified Autism Nova Scotia staff member shall act as secretary of this meeting and record the minutes.

He acknowledged that this event was broadcasted in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. Dave also acknowledged that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years, and honoured and offered gratitude to those ancestors of African descent.

Dave asked Autism Nova Scotia Board Members to join him on screen, and welcomed virtually present Board members: Catherine Rahey, Ian Sutherland, Greg Smith, Dr. Robert Strang, Sarah Boyne, Bill Lahey and Tracey Avery.

Also recognized:

Stephanie McGrath: Long – time Board Member,

Dave acknowledged and thanked long-time Board Member Stephanie McGrath who earlier this year retired from her position on our Board of Directors.

On behalf of the entire Board, Dave thanked Stephanie McGrath for her invaluable support and wished her well for future endeavors.

Dave also acknowledged Joan Craig – Honorary Board Member and Founder, as well as Trustees of the Craig Foundation; Cynthia Carroll – Executive Director of Autism Nova and the staff of Autism Nova Scotia; all members of Autism Nova Scotia and the greater autism community.



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2023: Zoom Webinar

2. OVERVIEW OF EVENT

Dave provided a procedure overview for the Annual General Meeting.

3. REGISTRATION

All members were invited to register for the virtual meeting via Zoom webinar. All attendees were recorded during registration.

A link to the Agenda, 2023 Minutes, Financial Statements, and Autism Nova Scotia's 2024 Annual Report were emailed to all registered attendees.

Dave welcomed newcomers to view these items on the website, autismnovascotia.ca under 'events'.

4. VOTING

Dave announced that for motions; all attendees will have the opportunity to vote on a motion using the provided poll, which will remain open and on screen for 10 seconds. He stated that attendees are encouraged to vote, but it is not a requirement, and that a record of the votes will be kept.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Dave welcomed attendees to send in Questions or Comments to Autism Nova Scotia using the Q&A icon located at the bottom of the screen.

5. PROXIES

Dave requested all proxies be sent to him.

6. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of meeting was duly given on Tuesday, May 28th, 2023.

MOTION: Tracey Avery moved to forego the reading of the Notice of Meeting, seconded by Sarah Boyne.

MOVED: Motion carried by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Zoom Poll.



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2023: Zoom Webinar

7. REGRETS

Dave delivered regrets from the following Board Members, Janean Marshall and Ally Garber.

QUORUM

Dave stated that quorum at a general meeting of members shall consist of those members virtually present or by proxy.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S DECLARATION

Dave stated that a quorum is present, the meeting is to be duly called and properly constituted for the transaction of business.

9. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Ian Sutherland motioned to approve the Agenda, seconded by Greg Smith.

MOVED: Agenda approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Zoom poll.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 29th, 2022

MOTION: Catherine Rahey motioned to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 29th 2022, seconded by Robert Strang

Moved: Minutes approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Zoom Poll.

11. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Discussion of the Financial Statements ending March 31, 2023, were presented by Autism Nova Scotia Treasurer, Greg Smith.

MOTION: Greg Smith moved to approve the Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2023, seconded by Ian Sutherland.

MOVED: The Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2023, were approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom Poll.



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2023: Zoom Webinar

12. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

MOTION: Sarah Boyne moves to appoint Levy Carter Casey McLean as Auditors for 2023-2024, seconded by Tracey Avery.

MOVED: Levy Casey Carter MacLean were approved as Auditors for 2023-2024 by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom poll.

13. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Dave shared that the nominations committee of the Board of Directors, recommended that those Directors identified in the 2023 Annual Report, be re-elected for a one- year term.

Dave introduced Dr. Abraham Rudnick as a Board Member candidate.

MOTION: Alissa Lysack moved to approve the election of the board of Directors identified in the Annual Report with the addition of Dr Abraham Rudnick, seconded by Amanda Comeau.

MOVED: The Board of Directors identified in the Annual Report with the above noted addition were approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom poll.

Dave invited Dr. Rudnick to say a few words after his approval as an official Provincial Board Member.

14. BOARD REPORT

Dave provided the Board Report for the 2022-2023 Year, which was provided in full in the Annual Report:

As we reflect on last year and wrap up our 20th anniversary, we can honestly say it has been an incredible year for the autism community and our organization.

Two decades ago, Autism Nova Scotia was founded by Joan and Jack Craig, and we would not exist today without their unwavering support and tenacious commitment. It is because of Joan, Jack, and trailblazers like them across the province that Autism Nova Scotia has grown into a robust organization that supports Autistic people across the lifespan and their families.

This past year, opportunities and possibilities have continued to expand and I am happy to share some of our highlights with you:



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2023: Zoom Webinar

- With the support of the provincial government, QuickStart Nova Scotia, our parent-mediated coaching program for toddlers, ages 12-31 months, expanded across the province. Since the launch of QuickStart Nova Scotia in 2018, 195 children in the Halifax Regional Municipality have been enrolled to astounding success. With the expansion, we will now support more than 100 additional children right across the province in the coming year alone.
- We also saw incredible growth in our Pinwheel Wellness Centre, which is Nova Scotia's first and only mental health support centre for Autistic adults. In 2022, we supported 119 individuals with autism at our Centre, which is a 116% increase from the previous year. With positive feedback from both those in the autism community and the healthcare system, the centre is changing the way Autistic people are supported in their mental health journeys.
- In our employment department, we experienced exceptional growth in the Ready, Willing and Able program, a successful employment initiative for Autistics and/or people with an intellectual disability of which we are a local delivery partner. Thanks to a recent federal investment into the program, Autism Nova Scotia has expanded RWA program delivery to include the region of Sydney, Cape Breton, with a designated position that works with employers to promote inclusive hiring.
- This year, Autism Nova Scotia also became an Independent Living Support service provider. As an ILS provider, Autism Nova Scotia promotes independence, self-reliance, security, and social inclusion and helps people achieve their personal goals.

It is thanks to these programs and many besides that Autism Nova Scotia is effectively changing the support landscape in our province.

Though we have spent this past year celebrating our organization's rich history, our true focus is on the future: building an inclusive Nova Scotia, amplifying the voices of our Autistic community, and ensuring that everyone can live their absolute best life as we trailblaze a path forward together.

We are excited to lead the change and growth Nova Scotia needs, together, for the next twenty years and well into the future.

Thank-you.

Dave invited Cynthia Carroll, Executive Director of Autism Nova Scotia, to present her report.



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2023: Zoom Webinar

Cynthia thanked everyone for joining the Autism Nova Scotia's 2023 Annual General Meeting from across the province.

Cynthia highlighted that Autism Nova Scotia has experienced excellent momentum this year both in the types of services we're offering and our geographical reach. She also encouraged all attendees to read the 2023 Annual Report for a full review.

Additionally, Cynthia mentioned the legacy left by Autism Nova Scotia founders, Joan and Jack Craig and the vision that has shaped the organization over the past 20 years. Cynthia then introduced the AGM theme, 'Trailblazing Together' in honour of this legacy and vision.

Cynthia ended by recognising the hard work of the staff, volunteers and larger autism community for the work that has been and continues to get done.

Cynthia thanked attendees and passed the virtual mic back to Dave.

15. TERMINATION

Dave thanked Cynthia and invited all Board Members to join him on the screen.

MOTION: Robert Strang moved that the 2023 Annual General Meeting now be adjourned, seconded by Greg Smith.

MOVED: The adjournment of the 2023 Annual General Meeting was approved by the majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom poll.

16. MEETING CLOSED

Dave thanked Board Members for joining him on screen and introduced the presentation portion of the Annual General Meeting.

17. PRESENTATIONS

The presentation of the evening highlighted some of the supports Autism Nova Scotia offers, and the critical role these supports play in helping individuals on the spectrum and their families thrive in their communities. The final presentation of the evening was a one-of-a-kind video that told the story of Autism Nova Scotia through the members of the autism community. This video was shown to attendees.

Once the presentation concluded, Cynthia Carroll then stepped up for a brief Question and Answer period.

18. CLOSING REMARKS – CYNTHIA CARROLL



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2023: Zoom Webinar

Cynthia thanked members for joining and encouraged attendees to complete and submit the survey that was sent via email following the meeting.

Cynthia concluded the meeting by thanking Board-Chair Dave Nicholson for hosting the AGM, the Board Members, Founder and Honorary Board Member: Joan Craig, staff at all chapters, volunteers, students, donors, participants, and everyone who worked tirelessly to support individuals and families on the autism spectrum. Finally, Cynthia thanks the autism community for their various contributions to the Annual General Meeting and outstanding efforts for the past year.

15. MEETING ADJOURNMENT